

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1309

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

COMUSFORAZ

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0400

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITUATION IN AZORES

1. ON OCTOBER 14 THE MEMBERS OF ARMY UNITS ON SAO MIGUEL, THE 18TH BATTALION, THE COASTAL ARTILLERY UNIT AND MEMBERS OF MILITARY COMMAND OF AZORES, SIGNED IDENTICAL COMMUNIQUEs STATING THAT ACCORDING TO RUMORS SOME SOLDIERS SUPPORT FLA, BUT THAT THE OFFICERS, SARGENTS AND TROOPS FORMALLY REPUDIATE THESE RUMORS. IN ADDITION, THE SOLDIERS

CONSIDER ANY POSITION FAVORING FLA AS TREASON TO NATION OF PORTUGAL. THE COMMUNIQUEs WERE READ ON TELEVISION EVENING OF OCTOBER 14 AND PUBLISHED IN NEWSPAPER OF OCT 15.

2. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT SOME OFFICERS FELT COMMUNIQUEs WERE FORCED ON THE ARMY UNITS AND DO NOT REPRESENT TRUE OPINION OF MANY SOLDIERS. CHIEF OF STAFF, HOWEVER, SAID GROUP OF SARGENTS SPONTANEOUSLY SUGGESTED COMMUNIQUEs AND THEY DO REFLECT VIEW OF ARMY.

3. LOCAL RADIO PRODUCER, WHO WAS ARRESTED AFTER JUNE 6, CALLED FOR REFERENDUM ON INDEPENDENCE ON HIS PROGRAM BROADCAST ON SANTA MARIA RADIO ON OCTOBER 14. REPORTEDLY, PRODUCER ACCUSED GENERAL
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MAGALHAES OF BEING A TRAITOR TO AZOREAN PEOPLE

AND APPEALED TO HIM NOT TO PERMIT AZOREAN SITUATION TO BECOME ANOTHER

TIMOR, BUT TO ALLOW A REFERENDUM. PRODUCER CLAIMED HE WAS SPEAKING
ONLY FOR HIMSELF. RADIO STATION IN ANGRA IS SAID TO WANT TO
REBROADCAST PROGRAM.

4. COMMENT: THESE EVENTS HAVE CAUSED CONSIDERABLE STIR AND TALK OF
DEMONSTRATIONS IN FAVOR OF A REFERENDUM. HOWEVER, WE SEE NO
EVIDENCE THAT FLA IS PLANNING ANYTHING FOR NEAR FUTURE. PFEIFLE

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